

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendments and favorable reconsideration of the subject application in the light thereof, and in the light of the following remarks, are respectfully requested.

By the present Amendment, claims 22-26 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. These claims have been cancelled in order to expedite the prosecution of the subject application, but the cancellation does not prejudice the rights of the Applicants to file a continuation application.

Turning to the outstanding Official Action, claims 1-26 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 16-20 and 22-34 of U.S. Patent No. 6,682,215. A terminal disclaimer is appropriate to overcome such a rejection. Accordingly, a Terminal Disclaimer with regard to U.S. Patent No. 6,682,215 is attached hereto. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of said rejection is respectfully requested, as it is submitted that the rejection has now been overcome in light of the attached Terminal Disclaimer.

Claims 22-26 stand rejected over *Ramachandran et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,833,807). However, claims 22-26 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer in order to expedite the prosecution of the subject application. Accordingly, it is believed that the Examiner's art rejection of record has been rendered moot.

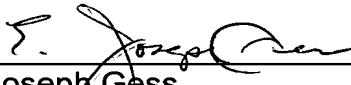
In light of the cancellation of claims 22-26, and the filing of the attached Terminal Disclaimer, it is believed that the subject application should now be in

condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of the subject application is therefore respectfully requested, and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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